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Senators Offer Ideas for SALT Acceptability

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee sought ways Monday to overcome possible failings of the new strategic arms limitation treaty.

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), urged annual 10% cuts in U.S. and Soviet strategic arsenals while Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) urged that the two nations seek some way to stabilize their political differences with each other as well.

Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.), threatened to turn against the SALT II pact if reservations were not added to clarify ambiguous points.

The ideas that the senators threw out at a committee hearing on the SALT pact seemed directed at improving the prospects of Senate ratification of it.

McGovern, a liberal critic of the treaty, warned:

"I cannot support SALT II as presently constituted without some such accompanying resolution based on what I believe is the emerging consensus of both 'hard-liners' and longtime advocates of arms limitation."

He said his proposed resolution would call for a freeze on new missiles and warheads after the treaty is ratified, and then would require U.S. negotiators to seek agreement with the Soviet Union on annual 10% reductions.

After three years, McGovern said, U.S. and Soviet leaders should meet to determine if reductions should continue and at what level.

Earlier, the former chief of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev had lied to President Carter during last month's SALT summit about the capabilities of the Kremlin's Backfire bomber.

Fred Ikle said Brezhnev's Vienna statement on the Backfire gave the misleading impression that the Soviet warplane could not bomb the United States.

"The real problem lies in the fact that the statement, according to our best intelligence, is deceptive," Ikle said in a statement. "To put it less diplomatically, it contains lies."

Ikle said Brezhnev had told Carter that the Soviet Union "does not intend to give this airplane the capability of operating at intercontinental distances."

"Yet, the Backfire, according to our best estimates, already has such capability," he said.